

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 9, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. Claim 7 is added by this amendment. Claims 1, 6, and 7 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to for informalities. The specification is amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's to cure these informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the specification is now in proper form and it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 is objected to for informalities resulting from the claims containing the phrase "characterized in that ...". The claims are amended herein to cure this informality. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-5, as well as Claims 1 and 6, which also contained this language, are now in proper form and it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite due to "opposite directions is not defined for an excess of two rings." Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein to clarify that "the network having further network nodes

coupled via at least two rings, wherein each of the at least two rings operate in pairs working in opposite directions " which cures these noted problems. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 6 are now in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-6 are allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

New Claim 7 is added herein and is commensurate in scope with the "Allowable Subject Matter" indicated in the Office Action on page 3 and an indication to the allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 9, 2005